

## **Governor's Water Augmentation Council: Recycled Water Committee**

January 24, 2017

Time: 10am – 12pm

Location: Arizona Department of Water Resources

### **Meeting Summary**

The second meeting of the Governor's Water Augmentation Council (GWAC) Recycled Water Committee was held on January 24, 2017. The Recycled Water Committee was formed at the October 28, 2016, GWAC meeting. During that meeting, GWAC Chairman Buschatzke requested that the Committee look at the progress made on the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Water Sustainability recommendations for reclaimed water, and to consider statewide opportunities for future recycled water projects.

Chairman John Kmiec called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. The committee members introduced themselves. From the GWAC, Mr. Kmiec and Bob Lotts were present. Brian Payne of the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association represented Council Member Warren Tenney and Scott Deeny of the Nature Conservancy represented Council Member Pat Graham. Philip Richards and Bruce Hallin of the Salt River Project represented Council Member Dave Roberts. Other committee members seated at the table were Tim Thomure of Tucson Water, Charles Mosely from City of Sedona and Chuck Graf of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). There were twelve members of the public in the audience.

#### **Advisory Panel on Emerging Contaminants**

Mr. Kmiec invited Chuck Graf, Principle Hydrogeologist at ADEQ, to present on the recent Advisory Panel on Emerging Contaminants (APEC). A PDF version of the presentation is available on the Recycled Water Committee webpage:

[http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/Arizona\\_Water\\_Initiative/GWACMeetingInformation.htm](http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/Arizona_Water_Initiative/GWACMeetingInformation.htm)

Mr. Graf outlined the efforts made by APEC to identify and research contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) in reclaimed water. This work was led by ADEQ with additional assistance from the University of Arizona. A copy of the final APEC report may be found here: <http://www.azdeg.gov/advisory-panel-emerging-contaminants-apec>

#### **Steering Committee on Arizona Potable Reuse**

Tim Thomure, Director of Tucson Water, presented on behalf of Water Reuse Arizona and the Steering Committee on Arizona Potable Reuse (SCAPR) – an outcome of Governor Brewer's Blue Ribbon Panel recommendations. SCAPR makes efforts to educate local communities that the time for direct potable reuse (DPR) is here. Mr. Thomure addressed the regulatory frameworks used by California and Texas that have allowed for DPR pilot programs. The outcomes of the first phase of SCAPR were: 1) a statement that potable reuse is on the table in Arizona, 2) that indirect potable reuse projects are in place, and 3) a recommendation for a flexible regulatory framework. Phase one also listed primary concerns for the future of potable reuse. The next phase will be a draft report from SCAPR which will likely be available in late Spring 2017.

#### **Discussion**

After the presentations, there was a brief time of questions and answers on these topics. A notable conversation on cost-effectiveness came from Council Member Bob Lotts.

Mr. Lotts asked why Arizona should invest in potable reuse infrastructure if it only yields a small portion of our statewide annual water demand?

Mr. Kmiec responded that potable reuse systems provide a backup supply to traditional sources. Should an emergency arise, communities could already have a potable reuse system in place. He added that recycled water is also an option in the water supply portfolio, even if it is a fraction of the volume of traditional sources.

Mr. Graf added that having a regulatory framework now, makes future shared systems (recycled and treated drinking water) more manageable.

Mr. Thomure clarified that recycled water rules should be updated so that water treatment plant operator certifications may be standardized and streamlined.

### **Conclusion**

Mr. Kmiec thanked everyone for attending and announced that a future meeting would be scheduled in March, 2017.